

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

### 1. A recording tape cartridge comprising:

a tape;

a reel having a reel hub on whose outer periphery the tape is wound, the reel hub having a cylindrical recess portion;

a case which accommodates the reel such that the reel is rotatable;

a braking member able to move between a locking position at which the braking member prohibits rotation of the reel, and a non-locking position at which the braking member permits rotation of the reel, the braking member being provided within the cylindrical recess portion of the reel hub; and

a reinforcing ring fit in the cylindrical recess portion of the reel hub, and being a member separate from the reel hub.

2. The recording tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing ring has a tubular portion, and a restricting ring portion which is provided at one end of the tubular portion and which has an inner diameter which is smaller than an inner diameter of the tubular portion.

3. The recording tape cartridge of claim 2, wherein, at the locking position, the braking member opposes the restricting ring portion, and at the non-locking position, the braking member opposes the tubular portion.

4. The recording tape cartridge of claim 2, wherein a clearance between the braking member at the locking position and the restricting ring portion is preferably 0.1 mm to 0.9

mm, and is more preferably 0.1 mm to 0.3 mm.

5. The recording tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the braking member is translationally movable in a direction of an axis of rotation of the reel, between the locking position and the non-locking position.

6. The recording tape cartridge of claim 1, further comprising an urging member which always urges the braking member toward the locking position.

7. The recording tape cartridge of claim 1, further comprising a release pad for forcing movement of the braking member indirectly from an exterior of the case.

8. The recording tape cartridge of claim 1, further comprising a mechanism which prohibits relative rotation of the case and the braking member.

9. The recording tape cartridge of claim 8, wherein the mechanism has a cross-shaped rib provided at the case, and a cross-shaped projection which is provided at the braking member and in which an insertion groove is formed.

10. The recording tape cartridge of claim 1, further comprising a tape access opening provided at the case.

11. The recording tape cartridge of claim 10, further comprising a shielding member able to move reciprocally along an arc-shaped path of movement between a closing position, at which the shielding member closes the tape access opening, and an opening position, at

which the shielding member opens the tape access opening.

12. The recording tape cartridge of claim 10, wherein the case has a front wall portion facing in a cartridge insertion direction, a side wall portion substantially parallel to the cartridge insertion direction, and an inclined wall portion connecting the front wall portion and the side wall portion and inclined with respect to the cartridge insertion direction, and the tape access opening is provided at the inclined wall portion of the case.

13. A tape drive into which a tape cartridge is inserted so as to be freely removable therefrom, and which carries out at least one of reading of data and writing of data, the tape cartridge having: a tape; a reel having a reel hub on whose outer periphery the tape is wound, the reel hub having a cylindrical recess portion; a case which accommodates the reel such that the reel is rotatable; a braking member able to move between a locking position at which the braking member prohibits rotation of the reel, and a non-locking position at which the braking member permits rotation of the reel, the braking member being provided within the cylindrical recess portion of the reel hub; and a reinforcing ring fit in the cylindrical recess portion of the reel hub, and being a member separate from the reel hub,

the tape drive comprising a driving member for one of directly and indirectly forcing movement of the braking member at a time when the tape cartridge is inserted.

14. The recording tape cartridge of claim 13, wherein the driving member can move reciprocally in a direction of an axis of rotation of the reel, for the movement of the braking member.

15. The recording tape cartridge of claim 13, wherein the driving member can drive and rotate the reel by engaging with the reel.